

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 52 and 54-56 were previously pending in this application. Claims 52 and 54-56 remain pending for examination with claim 52 being an independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 52 and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 52 and 54-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Support for the recitation of “portions of the surface defining the indentations being of material essentially identical to that of portions of the surface defining the protrusions” may be found, for example, in Figures 2, 3, 11, and 12. The instant specification states, for example, “Referring to Fig. 2, a sensor system 10 is illustrated schematically including a first component 12 and a second component 14. First component 12 has a first surface 14 defining a plurality of protrusions 16 and indentations 18. Outward facing surfaces of protrusions 16 contact a surface 20 of second component 14.” (Please see page 6, lines 3-13, of the specification.) Component 12, as illustrated in Figure 2, comprises a surface defining the indentations that are made of material essentially identical to that of portions of the surface defining the protrusions, as indicated by the consistent hatch marks within component 12. Similarly, component 12 in Figures 11 and 12 comprise consistent shading throughout. Thus, it is believed that the above-noted recitation is described in the instant specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 52 and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 52 and 54-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,443,890 (“Ohman”).

Ohman fails to teach or suggest an article comprising a polymeric component having a surface defining a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of intervening indentations, wherein

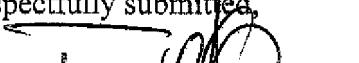
portions of the surface defining the indentations are of material essentially identical to that of portions of the surface defining the protrusions, with the protrusions bonded to a surface of a second component in the absence of auxiliary adhesive, as described in claim 52. While Ohman may teach a first component having a surface defining a plurality of protrusions (indicated by arrows drawn on FIG. 5 in the Office Action), the Patent Office has not shown where, in Ohman, the protrusions are described to be bonded to a surface of a second component. By contrast, the embodiment shown in FIG. 5 of Ohman describes two separate components, i.e., component 1 and component 8 are not bonded to each other. Additionally, the embodiment described in FIG. 6 of Ohman includes a first component “applied to” a second component. However, in FIG. 6, Ohman does not describe a liquid-impermeable seal therebetween. Furthermore, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 9 of Ohman, the portions of the surface defining the “protrusions” are different than those indicated by arrows drawn on FIG. 5 in the Office Action. Rather, the “protrusions” shown in FIG. 9 of Ohman comprise two different materials (e.g., component 1 and sealing strips 5) than that of the intervening indentations.

Because each limitation is not taught or suggested in Ohman, claim 52 is patentable over Ohman for at least this reason. Claims 54-56 depend from claim 52 and, thus, are also patentable over Ohman.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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